

**IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR IHSS RECIPIENTS
ABOUT CHANGES TO THE FEDERAL MEDI-CAL
IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) PROGRAMS**

You are getting this Notice because you are an IHSS recipient, you receive Medi-Cal and you pay a Share of Cost (SOC). Now you pay your SOC to the person who provides you with IHSS services, and you have a Medi-Cal card with no SOC included. Your IHSS Notice of Action tells you the amount of IHSS SOC you need to pay to your provider(s).

WHAT IS CHANGING?

This Notice is about a change in how you pay your SOC. Because IHSS services are now provided under Medi-Cal, and we have to follow Medi-Cal rules, the way you pay your SOC has changed. Instead of paying your SOC only to your IHSS provider, now you may also pay your SOC when you go to the doctor or pharmacy. If you do not pay all of your SOC when you go to the doctor or pharmacy or access other Medi-Cal approved services, you will pay the rest to your IHSS provider. You will receive a Notice from the State at the end of each pay period telling you how much to pay to your IHSS provider.

WHEN DOES THIS NEW PROCESS BEGIN?

This new process will begin June 1, 2006.

WHAT IS A SHARE OF COST?

Most people who get IHSS services also have Medi-Cal. Some of those people must pay a certain amount each month toward their medical expenses. This dollar amount is called a Share of Cost (SOC). A SOC is similar to a private insurance plan's out-of-pocket deductible. As an IHSS recipient you have been paying your SOC directly to your IHSS provider.

HOW DOES MY MEDICAL BENEFITS IDENTIFICATION CARD (BIC) WORK WHEN I HAVE A SOC?

When you go to the pharmacy or doctor's office, you use your Medi-Cal card. The pharmacy or doctor's office connects to a computer system to see what your SOC amount is. As you pay for any medical expenses, the amount you pay is subtracted from the total SOC for that month. Each purchase lowers your SOC until the whole SOC is paid each month. When the whole SOC amount is paid, you do not have to pay for any medical expense until the beginning of the next month.

HOW WILL I KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY TO PAY MY PROVIDER?

When your IHSS provider's timesheet(s) is processed for payment, any SOC that you have not paid during that month will be deducted from your provider's paycheck, just like it is now. Instead of just paying your SOC to your provider, you may have paid some of your SOC at a doctor's office, pharmacy or for other Medi-Cal-approved services, so what you owe to your IHSS provider each pay period may be different. A computer system keeps track of how much you pay when you use your Medi-Cal card. To help you understand how much to pay your provider(s), you will receive an "Explanation of IHSS SOC" letter for each provider pay period telling you the amount you must pay to the provider.

If you have more than one provider, you will not be able to choose which provider your SOC is paid to. Any SOC that you have not paid will be subtracted from the provider's timesheet that is sent to the county first. Please help make sure that all timesheets are completed, verified and submitted on time by your provider(s). If your IHSS provider(s) do not turn in their timesheets every pay period, we cannot tell you how much of your SOC must be paid to them.